



Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet

LOBBY EXHIBITS

The Founding of the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea AND Highlights of the First 10 Years

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BEREA, Ky. – Two exhibits, “The Founding of the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea” and “Highlights of the First 10 Years,” are now on display in the lobby of the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea through Nov. 17, 2013. These exhibits are part of the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea’s 10 Year Anniversary Celebration.

“The Founding of the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea” exhibit provides an overview of the center’s development, beginning with the April 1996 tornado and its aftermath and ending with the ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 30, 2003. The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea began with a regional grassroots effort that involved artisans, city and county officials, Berea College, Eastern Kentucky University and state officials. Photographs and text panels take visitors on a visual journey through the eight years of meetings, planning, development and construction that brought the center into being.

A second display features images of highlights of the center’s first 10 years of operation (2003-2013), including the center’s hosting of special events such as the National Craft Organization Development Association’s annual conference in 2005, the successful operation of a satellite store at the FEI World Equestrian Games in 2010, and the hosting of more than 2 million visitors from all around the world.

Also on display is the gallery exhibit “The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea: Celebrating 10 Years,” with works by 52 Kentucky artists who have worked with the center since 2003. The center opened representing 250 artists and now features the works of over 700 Kentucky artisans. Three days of celebration will be held July 19-21, with special events to celebrate the center’s 10 year anniversary.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea daily introduces visitors and travelers from all over the world to the wealth of visual arts, music, books and food products created by Kentucky artisans living all across the Commonwealth. In addition, the Center offers assistance to travelers, introduces them to the many cultural and historical destinations all across the state, and welcomes them to Berea, the “Folk Arts and Crafts Capital of Kentucky.”

Located at 200 Artisan Way, just off Interstate-75 at Exit 77, the Center’s travel information, gallery, and retail sales areas are open daily 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. and admission is free. The Center’s café is open 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily.

For information about the center’s events call 859-985-5448, visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kentucky.artisan.center, or go to the center’s website at www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Photos from the exhibits – top left, clockwise: A member of the stone mason team adding Kentucky limestone to an exterior wall; the Center's lobby in construction; former Gov. Paul Patton and dignitaries cut the hand-woven ribbon to open the center in 2003; Visitors attending the grand opening on July 30, 2003, enjoying demonstrations, food and music and works by 250 Kentucky artisans.